

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver tube ~~having a first end~~ that is removably connectable to a hearing aid and ~~a second end that~~ is removably connectable to a receiver of the hearing aid, wherein the receiver tube includes a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube to interface with a locking rib disposed about the receiver such that the receiver tube may be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locked to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver; and

an ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane, wherein the ear wax trap is disposed within the receiver tube ~~between the first and second ends.~~

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.

27-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a hearing aid comprising a receiver having an opening;

a receiver tube ~~having a first end~~ that is removably coupled to the hearing aid and ~~a second end that is~~ removably coupled to the receiver about the opening;

a funnel disposed about the opening of the receiver to guide the receiver tube to the opening; and

an ear wax trap disposed in the receiver tube ~~between the first and second ends~~, the ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising:  
a locking mechanism for selectively coupling the receiver tube to the receiver.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 37, further comprising:

a plurality of flexible flanges disposed between an end of the receiver tube and the opening in the receiver, the flexible flanges configured to hold the receiver tube in place when disposed within the opening.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 37, further comprising:  
a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube; and  
a locking rib disposed about the opening of the receiver and configured to allow the receiver tube to be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locking the receiver tube to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver.

47. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 37, wherein the receiver includes a threaded portion proximate the opening, wherein the receiver tube includes a radial flange extending from an end thereof, and wherein the apparatus further comprises:

a collar having mating threads with respect to the threaded portion of the receiver and configured to hold the flange of the receiver tube about the opening of the receiver when the collar is engaged with the threaded portion of the receiver.

48. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 37, wherein the receiver tube and the opening of the receiver are configured to be press fit together.

49. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[42]] 37, wherein the receiver tube and the receiver have mating threads to facilitate the removable coupling therebetween.

50. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

- a hearing aid comprising a receiver having an opening;

- a receiver tube that is removably coupled to the hearing aid and removably coupled to the receiver about the opening, wherein the receiver tube includes a plurality of lugs radially extending from an end of the receiver tube;

- a locking rib disposed about the opening of the receiver to allow the receiver tube to be connected to or removed from the receiver when in a first position, and locking the receiver tube to the receiver when the receiver tube is rotated to a second position relative to the receiver; and

- an ear wax trap disposed in the receiver tube, the ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane.